



FREE THE CHILDREN
children helping children through education



Oloosiyoi

FALL 2010 COMMUNITY REPORT

Thanks to your generosity and dedication, Free The Children and Oloosiyoi's residents have taken great strides in improving the lives of all those living within the region. Community members are accessing the resources and gaining the skills they need to lift their families out of poverty and to affect long-term, sustainable change in Oloosiyoi.

With your continued support, Oloosiyoi will be able to offer more educational opportunities to its children and more employment options for its adults, all the while realizing community members' rights to clean water and health care. Thank you once again for your dedication. Together, a brighter future is possible.

OF ALL COUNTRIES...



Why Kenya?

This is a time of incredible hope in Kenya. With an overwhelming turnout this August, the people of Kenya voted for a new constitution that will introduce a bill of rights and address major issues such as the poor state of women's health, corruption in court systems and unequal government representation. With these changes comes great anticipation of a more just and fair Kenyan society.

While these national changes are happening, we at Free The Children are deepening our work in the Maasai Mara and heeding our 2010 call to action **"Free From"**; helping communities become free from poverty, thirst, disease and exploitation. In Kenya, we see these challenges present themselves in farmland destroyed by drought, unsanitary or unavailable drinking water that carries disease, and severely restricted opportunities for children, especially girls. These are just a few of the reasons we continue to partner with local communities to develop Adopt a Villages solutions in the Maasai Mara region of Kenya.

With your outstanding support, over the past few months Free The Children has constructed a new health centre, an all-girls secondary school and engaged more than 100 womens, mens and youth groups focused on mutual empowerment and economic development. Increased education, better access to clean water and sanitation, consistent health care and sources of alternative income will help these communities grow and give Kenyan children more opportunity to thrive.

ADOPT A VILLAGE

Education

Free The Children's education initiatives in Oloosiyoi continue to deepen and grow. Our construction team is nearly finished installing the roof of Oloosiyoi Primary School's eighth classroom as well as the walling portion of the school kitchen.

In an ongoing effort to ensure communication and cooperation with Kenyan school officials, a meeting was held in July to improve the operations of Oloosiyoi schools. Local education supervisors met teachers and Free The Children staff. The group decided to hold meetings with teachers each term to address pressing issues, maintain a clean,

healthy environment conducive to learning, and ensure English and Kiswahili are spoken and taught according to the Kenyan curriculum.

In the upcoming year, we will be working hard to build a brand new library for Oloosiyoi Primary School. This library will be open to students before and after school hours, giving them access to valuable learning materials and a safe space to concentrate on their school work.

Oloosiyoi students gather to play football during recess break



Classroom 8 is near completion

ADOPT A VILLAGE



Water and Sanitation

For over a year, Free The Children has been working hard to construct deep water wells in all of the Kenyan communities where we work. Digging the Oloosiyoi borehole was a challenging task, but it was a truly momentous occasion when we finally hit water at a depth of 220 metres! Once the wells were completed, our staff and community members held an opening ceremony and training sessions for the new water systems in multiple communities.

Since the summer, we have finished constructing the required generator and communal water point buildings. In addition, the piping system which brings water from the borehole to two main storage tanks (each holding 6000 litres of water) and the school tank, is now complete. This project will help decrease the prevalence of waterborne diseases and give girls, who traditionally have walked hours each day to fetch water, the opportunity to attend school and still fulfill their obligations to their families.



Alternative Income

We are very excited to announce the inauguration of Me to We Artisans in Oloosiyoi. Beginning in June, Oloosiyoi women were invited to attend training sessions on creating high quality beaded accessories for sale locally and abroad through Me to We Artisans. Beading is a traditional practice for Maasai communities and families. This new initiative will empower local Mamas to learn or perfect their trade and earn extra income for their families.

The beading initiative adds to the diversity and scope of our alternative income projects in Oloosiyoi. Already, our projects include women selling surplus produce from their personal "kitchen gardens" in markets, women's groups receiving leadership training and attending workshops on managing small businesses and record keeping. Through these initiatives, women gain more decision-making power in their households and communities. As well, they are empowered to make real change to their own lives and the lives of their families.



Health

Health education has been a major focus for Free The Children, as a way of keeping students healthy and in school. Health education is primarily done through lessons with the school's Health Club. These classes inform students on common disease prevention and in-home first aid.

In addition to general health lessons, 41 girls from Grades 7 and 8 attended a class on HIV and AIDS and teenage pregnancy. These classes aimed to increase student access to accurate information and to promote positive, empowering behavior. Students responded positively to the seminar, identifying with the subject material and expressing that they see these issues as potential threats to their success at school.

Free The Children also continues to implement "Seven Habits to a Healthy Home" at a household level. We are working with families, to help them develop hand-washing stations, pit latrines, and other practices to improve their lives.

A WORLD OF IMPACT



Charity is a strong leader and role model in her community

Meet Charity Lemein

Charity Lemein is a 39-year-old mother of four and foster mother of two. She is a very busy woman, managing to balance raising six children, cooking and caring for her family, farming the small family plot and attending college part-time to get her diploma in Community Development.

An active member of her community, Charity is a selfless person. She chose to attend her diploma program to learn ways to help her community grow and develop. She told us that if she had more money she would share it with underprivileged children in the area to provide food, and clothes to help them attend school.

“My greatest wish,” said Charity, **“is to be able to help everybody in my community.”**

Charity praised Free The Children’s work in Oloosiyoi, telling us that the Free The Children school is a positive, clean and modern environment for her children to get an education.

In addition, she said Free The Children workshops with local women are helping them employ better farming techniques to cultivate more beautiful gardens and harvest more nutritious meals for their families.

Charity dreams of a world where her family can learn, play and live free from poverty, and she is working every day to make that dream a reality.

For change to happen in the world, Charity says we need, **“for everyone to be good to each other, since we all need each other.”**

THANK YOU

Your incredible support has enabled us and the residents of Oloosiyoi to improve the community's well-being. This success represents an amazing step towards helping families become free from poverty, exploitation, disease and thirst. With your continued support, we will deepen and extend these freedoms to create sustainable change for the people of Oloosiyoi. You can have a life-changing impact in the following ways:

1

Help outfit the new Baraka Clinic with medical supplies. The effective operation of this medical clinic is key to changing lives in the communities we work with. Please help ensure that the clinic stays fully stocked with much-needed supplies!

2

Foster women's empowerment by establishing more women's groups where members meet to receive valuable training in topics like financial literacy, animal husbandry, and beehive keeping.

3

Support clean water and sanitation workshops. Now that there is a well and clean water system in place, it is important to ensure that knowledge about using and preserving the new system is held by all community members.

Thank you for making a difference. Your support is crucial to maintaining the success of these initiatives.

If you would like to continue supporting the community of Oloosiyoi, please make an online donation at www.freethechildren.com/donate.

